

Appl. No. 09/942,602
Amdt. Dated October 18, 2004
Response to Office action of September 8, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Regarding Kondo (USP 6,512,497) in view of Swartz et al. (USP 6,095,418)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of independent claims 1, 17 and 18, and claims 2 to 16 dependent from claim 1, is not taught or suggested by Kondo either taken alone or in combination with Swartz for at least the following reasons.

In the present invention, a device and method are provided in which a scanner is used to scan text/graphics of an entire document, such as a book or magazine, which have been encoded as a printed pattern on a card. The scanned pattern is then processed and displayed by the device so as to be readable by a user. The operation of the device is either via user manipulation, as recited in claim 1, or is automatic, as recited in claims 17 and 18 (see also page 6, lines 11-23 and page 7, lines 7-18 of the present specification). This is made possible by printing the pattern on the small-sized cards at very high resolution and employing a suitably high resolution scan head (see page 6, line 34-page 7, line 18 of the present specification).

Kondo discloses an electronic book 1 which reads image data from a recording medium 5, namely a disk, and displays the image data on LCDs 27,28 under operation of a CPU 21. However, as correctly identified by the Examiner, there is no disclosure in Kondo as to encoding the image data as a printed pattern which is scanned by the electronic book 1.

In an attempt to make up for this deficiency in Kondo, the Examiner refers to Swartz which discloses various embodiments of encoding information in a two-dimensional bar code which is scanned so as to be reproduced. This reproduction primarily includes sound reproduction, however in one embodiment an encoded signature on a credit card is read and displayed for verification purposes (see col. 5, lines 12-36 of Swartz). Another embodiment disclosed in Swartz relates to the encoding of a book for phonetic sound reproduction in which a two-dimensional bar code is printed on each page of the book encoding the phonetic data representation of the printed text on that page (see col. 4, lines 27-49 of Swartz).

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The Examiner asserts that there would have been motivation to replace the image data disk and reader of Kondo with the printed two-dimensional bar code and scanner of Swartz in the electronic book of Kondo so that the encoded information "can be reproduced in a simple way". The applicant respectfully disagrees because one of ordinary skill in the art understands that two-dimensional bar codes are limited in the amount of information they can represent and require specialized scanners. This is why in the only embodiment disclosed in Swartz related to encoding book information, it is necessary to print a separate two-dimensional bar code on each page of the book.

Thus, it would not have been obvious to modify the system of Kondo as the Examiner contends, since the system of Swartz does not simplify the encoding of the information, and even if Kondo and Swartz were to be combined as the Examiner suggests, a printed pattern encoding text and/or graphics of an entire document would not be provided. As such, Kondo and Swartz neither taken alone nor in combination teach or suggest the subject matter of amended claims 1-18.

Regarding Kondo and Swartz further in view of Isao (JP 2001-100667)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claim 4 is not taught or suggested by Kondo in view of Swartz and further in view of Isao for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

Isao merely discloses a battery powered electronic book 1 having LCD screens 11,12 arranged like a book which display data read from a recording medium 5, such as a CD-ROM or MD (see paragraphs [0001] and [0016] and Fig. 2; it is noted that Isao is related to the Kondo reference). Isao does not disclose a device or method in which a printed pattern encoding text and/or graphics of an entire document is provided, scanned and displayed, and as such does not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies of Kondo and Swartz.

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Regarding Kondo and Swartz further in view of Philipps (USP 6,107,988)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 11-13 is not taught or suggested by Kondo in view of Swartz and further in view of Philipps for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

Philipps merely discloses an electronic apparatus having LCD panels arranged like a book which display data read from a CD-ROM (see col. 3, lines 19-32). Philipps does not disclose a device or method in which a printed pattern encoding text and/or graphics of an entire document is provided, scanned and displayed, and as such does not makeup for the above-discussed deficiencies of Kondo and Swartz.

Regarding Kondo and Swartz further in view of Ohara et al. (USP 6,052,117)

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of dependent claims 16 is not taught or suggested by Kondo in view of Swartz and further in view of Ohara for at least the above-discussed and following reasons.

Ohara merely discloses a system in which the contents of a book are stored within a ROM and a location detection circuit is provided so that when a user touches certain locations of the book the information at that location can be retrieved from the ROM and displayed on a video display (see col. 4, line 64-col. 5, line 11). Ohara does not disclose a device or method in which a printed pattern encoding text and/or graphics of an entire document is provided, scanned and displayed, and as such does not makeup for the above-discussed deficiencies of Kondo and Swartz.

Regarding Examiner's asserted pertinent prior art

USP 5,159,635 and USP 5,243,655 are related to Swartz and merely disclose the encoding of information by the two-dimensional bar code, and USP 6,498,597 is totally unrelated to the encoding and reading of document data.

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It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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